

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3560

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DEPARTMENT PASS DOE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, US, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON EXPANSION
OF U.S. URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED REQUEST FEBRUARY 17 FROM SPANISH
FIRM DURO/FELGUERA S.A. FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. PLANS
TO EXPAND FACILITIES FOR ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM FOR NUCLEAR
REACTOR FUEL. FRANCISCO JOSE GARCIA JUAN, INFORMED
EMBOFF THAT HIS FIRM (A HOLDING COMPANY OWNED PRINCIPALLY
BY BANCO URQUIJO) HAS ONE FACTORY WHICH WAS BUILT TO
SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR THE EURODIF ENRICHMENT PLANT, IN
WHICH SPAIN HAS AN 11 PER CENT INTEREST. THE PLANT WAS
ALSO INTENDED FOR SUPPLY OF SIMILAR EQUIPMENT TO COREDIF
PROJECT, BUT LATTER HAS BEEN NOW CANCELLED. GARCIA
EXPLAINED THAT, SINCE FACTORY HAS ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS
WORK REMAINING ON EURODIF PROJECT AND NO OTHER CUSTOMERS
LINED UP, COMPANY IS EAGER TO LOCATE POSSIBLE CUSTOMERS
IN U.S.

2. GARCIA WAS AWARE OF PROVISION OF NON-PROLIFERATION
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BILL RECENTLY PASSED BY CONGRESS FOR EXPANSION OF U.S.
ENRICHMENT CAPABILITIES TO SATISFY NEEDS OF DOMESTIC
AND FOREIGN CUSTOMERS. GARCIA SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT A
FOURTH PLANT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN U.S., BUT HE HAD NO
DETAILS. SINCE ELEMENTS WHICH THE SPANISH COMPANY HAVE
MANUFACTURED FOR EURODIF PLANT ARE OF ORDINARY STEEL,
COMPARED WITH STAINLESS STEEL USED BY U.S. MANUFACTURERS,

GARCIA CLAIMED THEIR PRODUCT WAS MUCH CHEAPER. HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT EURODIF EQUIPMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN TESTED IN ACTUAL OPERATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBOFF SUGGESTED TO GARCIA THAT HE CONTACT THE COMMERCIAL SECTION OF SPANISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING DETAILS ON EXPANSION OF U.S. ENRICHMENT PLANTS. HOWEVER, IF DOE CAN PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ON PLAN EMBASSY WOULD FIND IT VERY USEFUL FOR THIS CONTACT AND FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SPANISH NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICIALS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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